

**Delaware Health Care Commission  
DELAWARE INSTITUTE OF DENTAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DIDER)  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday, May 10, 2017  
3:00 p.m.**

**Herman Holloway Health & Social Services Campus  
Main Administration Building, Room 301, New Castle**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Louis Rafetto, DMD, Chair; Nicholas Conte, DMD, MBA; Lisa Goss, RDH, BS; Bruce Matthews, DDS; and Howard W. Zucker, DDS

**Staff Present:** Helen Arthur, Director of Planning and Policy and Shebra Hall, Community Relations Officer

**Call to Order and Opening Remarks**

Dr. Rafetto, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:10p.m.

**Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2017**

Although a meeting quorum was not met, Dr. Rafetto asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Dr. Bruce Matthews motioned to approve the minutes. Lisa Goss seconded the motion. A vote will be taken at the next meeting to carry the motion.

**Update on DIDER funding**

DIDER and DIMER are in Governor Carney's budget for FY 2018, however the final vote from the General Assembly will not occur until June 30/July 1. The budget proposal allocates \$200,000 to Temple University for student slots, and \$17,500 for the State Loan Repayment Program. Since funding for DIDER and DIMER were not in the FY 2017 general budget, the Health Care Commission (HCC) is working to make sure that these programs stay on the radar of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in all of our reporting.

**State Loan Repayment Program Update**

Helen Arthur provided an update on the State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP), sharing that the HCC submitted a request to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for \$710,372 in carryover funds, which was awarded in the beginning of May. This amount brings the total available balance to \$986,472. Currently, twelve clinicians (including 1 from DIDER), have SLRP contract agreements with the HCC, leaving \$685,172 in federal funds available for new SLRP awards. All SLRP awards will require a 1:1 match. The match to the federal dollars can come from any non-federal private or community source, providing 50% of the total awarded amount. Ms. Arthur reminded the Board that applicants must enter in to a 2-year contract, with a maximum award of \$100,000, and provide services in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), with SLRP funding going towards qualifying education repayment only. The SLRP application process will reopen later this month, with new program guidelines available on the HCC website.

**Potential Cuts to Medicaid**

Dr. Conte has not yet seen a projection on what cuts to Medicaid reimbursement for dental care will look like for Delaware, nor does he have a sense of what effected providers plan for the future but the Governor's budget proposal outlines that the state will save approximately 2.6 million if the proposed cut is approved. However, the percentage cuts for State providers may be less than the 14% projected for private practitioners as the state clinics have a different contract with Medicaid. There is definite concern on how this will impact dental care in the state, but the Department of Public Health (DPH) is in full support of the Governor's plan. Dr. Rafetto also expressed concern on how this may effect recruitment of dental health providers in the state. Dr. Conte is considering alternative options for provider recruitment, including part-time and contractual positions, and actively meeting with stakeholders, such as the State Dental Society, to address additional recruitment opportunities.

### **State Dental Director Update**

HRSA recently approved a carryover funds request that will allow for continued funding for some school-based programming, including the Delaware Smile Check (DSC) program, which connects under-served children with dental homes and makes referrals for urgent dental care needs. Although DSC has reached hundreds of children, Dr. Conte reported that there is still a challenge of parents following through on dental care referrals. He states that of the children screened by the DSC providers, on average more than 10 children per school are referred for urgent care, but the majority do not follow up for appointments. Efforts have been made to recruit participating dental providers and to provide language and translation services, however, about 70% of referrals made at each school are not followed through. Dr. Conte is determined to turn this around and is considering further outreach measures.

Dr. Conte is meeting with leadership at the Christiana Care Health System (CCHS) dentistry residency program, and offering residents Continuing Education (CE) credits through the Center for Disabilities Studies at the University of Delaware. This is in effort to improve the image of the State Service Centers (SSCs) and make practicing in Delaware more attractive. DPH currently has 2 staff openings for dentists, which is impacting the ability to keep Kent and Sussex dental clinics operating 5 days a week. DPH is trying to recruit part-time and contractual opportunities to address the need. The state has had the least performing fiscal year, with high absenteeism rates (due to illness) for dental providers on staff. DPH is working on recruitment opportunities to draw more practitioners to state service.

Dr. Rafetto asked for an update on the Mobile Dental Clinic. Dr. Conte stated that DPH is seeking stable funding sources to better maintain and operate the vehicle and the program.

### **Adjourn**

Hearing no other business items, Dr. Rafetto adjourned the meeting at 3:50pm.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13th at 3pm. This meeting will be held in one location, without the videoconference as an option. The meeting will be at the Herman Holloway Health & Social Services Campus, Main Administration Building, Room 198 in New Castle.